

TRUMBULL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

April 14, 2010

Trumbull Library

Members Present: James J. Cebulski, Chairman, Arthur A. Kukla, Tara Liskov, Carol Porrata Elstein, Diane Schwartz, Joseph Schlig, Mary Whatley

Members Absent: John J. Lauria, Anthony Pettiti

Also Present: Susan J. Horton, Library Director, Joanne Orenstein, Clerk, Mr. Ray Strickland, and Member of the Public

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Chairman Cebulski.

Public Session: Mr. Strickland presented copies of the Fairfield County Weekly, which he had collected from the Library's Lobby. He invited the Board to look at them, and particularly directed them to the advertisements on the back pages of the newspapers. Mr. Strickland found the newspapers content vulgar and unacceptable to be available in the Library's lobby where children could be present and pick them up. Mr. Cebulski explained the newspapers are left there weekly, as other publications were, that they are free, and to not allow them in the lobby could violate freedom of the press. It could also violate Freedom of Information laws. Mr. Cebulski said it was worth exploring with the Town Attorney. Each member of the Board stated an opinion. Ms. Liskov said it was a sticky matter because the Library most likely had books on the shelf with similar content, and was concerned about Freedom of Speech. Ms. Porrata Elstein thought the Board needed to take the matter under advisement, but agreed with Ms. Liskov. Mr. Kukla said he thought the paper was indeed trashy but it was also the very first complaint he was aware of ever hearing about it. Ms. Schwartz felt it impossible to control, because it is "everywhere". Mr. Strickland said sometimes it took someone being willing to say "no", but Ms. Porrata Elstein said that with freedom came fringe. Mr. Cebulski said it would be put on the agenda for next month's meeting, that perhaps the Policy Committee could discuss it.

Correspondence: None.

Minutes: Ms. Schwartz requested Mr. Paris be identified as Dmitri Paris, Superintendant of Parks. Mr. Kukla reported his concern about the purchase order policy in reference to the Town, and the Finance Director's requests to have the money go through the Town. He said it was a matter or principal; the Board has authority over the Board's money. Ms. Whatley said the matter had been discussed at length, but it was a question of cooperating with the new administration.

Ms. Porrata Elstein made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 10, 2010, with noted correction. Ms. Schwartz seconded. VOTE: Msrs. Kukla and Schlig abstained, all others in favor.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Cebulski reported that the One Town/One Book program was half of the way through, and it has been a wonderful operation that has been great for the Library. He said Diane Schwartz should be commended for her exuberant endorsement of the program, as a part of the original organizing committee, and the Library staff deserved congratulations. Ms. Schwartz said Ms. Horton has been extraordinary. Reif Larson said at the Author's Reception that this inaugural One Town/One Book should be the model for all these programs. Ms. Schwartz added there had been tremendous backing from the schools' teachers, librarians and principals. Ms. Porrata Elstein said there needed to be more signs across Town at the various venues especially, but that was the only area that could be improved on.

Mr. Cebulski read through the memo highlighting the Major accomplishments of 14 Full-time employees, noting that a lot of things including the One Book/one Town program happened because of outside funding. He and Ms. Horton were approached by Vaughn Kenobi, a Trumbull Attorney willing to work pro-bono, to re-establish the defunct 501-3-©, or to make a new one. Ms. Horton said last Saturday's reception at the Marriott was a good example of why this is needed. The Library, even with donated funds, could not pay for the reception without three bids, but a 501-3-c could. Mr. Kukla said the Friends' could be used for this purpose, but a Board-controlled foundation was preferable to the rest of the members. Ms. Liskov said the reason they had pursued this in the past was because the Friends' were difficult. This no longer is the case, but if a new foundation were established it would need to be viable. Mr. Kukla said Library Board members would need to sit on that foundation, but now money donated to the Library goes to the Library Special Fund. Mr. Schlig pointed out that 501-3-c organizations were expensive to run, need to file tax returns and keep careful records. They need to be audited. He felt it should be an item on next month's Agenda.

Director's Report: Ms. Horton reported that Ms. Miklaus already has big sponsors. They are having a planning meeting on April 23rd to set up the Committee. She is paying all the out of pocket expenses, but there was a question of how much was going to the Library. [At the December 9, 2010, the Board stated they wanted a 50/50 split.

Ms. Horton said that the new head of the Town Council had requested a report stating three accomplishments of each employee; instead, Ms. Horton did this by department. The Town Attorney said the request was not illegal, but it was improper, thus Ms. Horton's response. The Town Council vote on the budget was Thursday April 15. In preparation, they had only one question, about the Lost Book/fine account. This money all goes to collections, and without it, the Library would be in trouble. Though the Town has not lowered the amount for this account, by keeping it the same for years it has been significantly reduced due to inflation.

The new cleaning service left the Building unlocked on two occasions, but they are getting better.

Ms. Horton distributed Nicole Cignoli's survey to the Public, which she is doing as part of her Master's Degree.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Schwartz reported the 802 Account is showing cost of new HVAC system for the computer server room. She reported on Board Funds. Mr. Kukla requested a list of the CD's with their interest rates and maturity dates for the next meeting.

Fairchild-Nichols Branch: Ms. Whatley reported they talked about a frost heave on the sidewalk, which is yet to be repaired by the Town. The lights on the sign were not functioning, and new bulbs needed to be put in.

Old Business: Mr. Cebulski reported the parking lot final drawing showing 32 new spaces, including 2 handicapped, was under review by the Fire Marshall. To get the prints drawn, the Board paid \$6000, but since they were drawn by the Town, the money was not spent. The Town has requested \$10,000 (including the \$6000) from the Board as their contribution. Stakes outside are the outer boundaries of the proposed new lot. It seems very likely to happen. To do it, 8 to 10 trees will need to come down. Mr. Paris has stated they are already compromised in some way. Mr. Cebulski will meet with Mary Keene and her group, who has opposed having them taken down, along with Mr. Paris. In addition, Mr. Cebulski told Mr. Paris that Ms. Porrata Elstein can help develop a planting scheme around the new lot. Mr. Schlig will join in as well. Mr. Cebulski would like the planting to be fundraiser (a la memorial bricks). It has been suggested to use the North dead end of the Stop 'n Shop parking lot for town vehicles, and Town Hall employees' vehicles.

Ms. Horton reported that while the Library was without a Cleaning Service, their custodian, Jim Morrison, was doing all the cleaning. His wife just passed away from cancer. Mr. Kukla made a motion to use Board funds to make a \$200 donation in his wife's memory to his church. Mr. Schlig seconded. VOTE: All in favor.

New Business: Report by the Policy Committee will be postponed until the next meeting. Ms. Horton said the policy allowing 6th graders to use the Teen center needed to be made official.

Adjournment: Ms. Whatley made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Kukla seconded. VOTE: All in favor at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein
Clerk

Approved:

James J. Cebulski, Chairman
Trumbull Library Board of Trustees

The next meeting of the Trumbull Library Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, May 12th at 7pm.